



# Dartmouth Public Schools

*Office of the Superintendent*

8 Bush Street  
Dartmouth, Massachusetts 02748  
Telephone: 508-997-3391  
Website: [www.dartmouth.school](http://www.dartmouth.school)

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of  
Dartmouth Public Schools

James A. Kiely, M.B.A.  
Assistant Superintendent of  
Finance and Operation

September 7, 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Over the past several years the country has seen an increase in school violence and school shootings. In response to these horrific events, districts have been taking additional steps to ensure schools are as safe and secure as possible. Staff and student training is an important component in this work. Effective training can increase chances of survival during the unlikely chance a school experiences a violent intruder.

To that end, Dartmouth Public Schools, in partnership with our local law enforcement agencies, is working to enhance our safety plans. These yearlong plans include review of our updated Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and active shooter training based on the most current research on how to increase the rate of survival during a violent intruder incident. This training is known as A.L.I.C.E. and provides staff and students with strategies that can be used should an event occur. A.L.I.C.E. means:

<b>Alert</b>	Use clear, concise language to convey the type and location of the event.
<b>Lockdown</b>	We will continue to lockdown students in secure areas as appropriate.
<b>Inform</b>	Communication allows for good decision making.
<b>Counter</b>	Apply skills to distract and confuse the intruder.
<b>Evacuate</b>	Leave the building.

Training in the A.L.I.C.E. approach will be modified according to students' age level. Staff and students will engage in practice scenarios which will be followed by evacuation drills. We are not asking or teaching students or staff to make any attempt to subdue an armed intruder outside of their secured area. However, we will provide them with research-based knowledge and skills which can be used if a critical situation arises. Training will emphasize that the best way to survive an intruder attack is to run. Training will also include leaving the building and walking to or pointing to designated rally points. Families will be notified by their building administration when to expect such drills.

We are also pleased to announce the addition of a third school resource officer. Joining Middle School SRO Officer Dave Tavares and High School SRO Officer Lisa DaCosta is Officer Amanda Tavares who has been assigned to our elementary schools. Officer Tavares will focus on safety and security, forming positive relationships with students and supporting safety programs in the schools. We are grateful to the police department for its continued commitment to keeping our schools safe.

As always, if you have further questions please contact your child's school administrator.

Sincerely,

Bonny L. Gifford, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Dartmouth Public Schools